

**From:** PMConnaugh@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/15/02 4:27pm  
**Subject:** Proposed Microsoft Settlement with the States' Attornies General.

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to express my opinion on the settlement of the Microsoft case. It's inappropriate that these proceedings are continued. As a user of Microsoft at not only at home but also at work. I can do my daily tasks with a great deal of concentration on the task at hand versus having to worrying through the "how to do" feat.

My wife had taught many Unemployed persons as an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University for a few years. The money was put into this activity, with the intent of preparing the Student to have the necessary Software to qualify for a job. Most Students had little trouble learning the MS Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook.

The fact that most of the American (and possibly most of the World's) Commerce run so profitably and easily is that there is a commonality of Software Tools, made possible by Microsoft. The ease of operation has allowed these Students, the Unemployed, to get those jobs in that they came with the necessary tools which permitted them to begin earning their keep. They had the confidence to spend their time over several months at 2-3 nights a week knowing that their efforts were not in vain. Why? American employers run on Microsoft! And they were prepared.  
high time that this case be ended.

This lawsuit has dragged on and wasted a great deal of time and (our Taxpayer) money in the process. Microsoft has changed the entire computer industry, giving consumers and businesses superior products. Their operating system enabled a great compatibility that has not been offered by any other company. Why would anyone want to switch to another system and other software that doesn't even work with one another?

I worked for five major companies as an Electrical Engineer and Manager/Vice President, using Microsoft in some way or another in all of my jobs. Microsoft products allowed me to concentrate on "What", not "How". Microsoft is being punished for creating innovative technologies that have changed our computer industry, our business practices, our economic practices and even

our methods of government forever. Just look at the simplification that the IRS has enjoyed now that Tax Returns can and are filed electronically (45 Million 2000 Federal returns at last count). Microsoft's efforts should be rewarded, not penalized.

.Think about how difficult it would be for you and those in your family to surf the Net, send Letters to the Editor, check their Bank Statement, pay their Bills, and even check the Weather without a ubiquitous and uniform means of communication. Just trying to change from Apple (Java) to an IBM, or other (Microsoft) computer. It's a waste.

This is analogous to the early problems of selecting between a Beta or a VCS Videotape system. We all use the VCS now. There was no government intervention. The people, the Buyers chose the better system. Did that selection prevent other bright Engineers from now offering CD's and DVD players? No! That's progress.

The proposed settlement is quite equitable for all parties. As I understand: Microsoft is conceding a great deal in order to move on. They are giving away some of their coding and interface design to competing software developers, as well as protocols for their server systems. They have also agreed not to enter into any contracts obligating third party distribution of Windows. Should any problems arise, the Technical Oversight Committee would make sure that Microsoft complies with the terms of the settlement, further ensuring fair competition. I for one, urge that the proposed settlement be upheld.

God Bless America and protect our Troops!

Sincerely,

Phillip M.Connaught  
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Bensalem, Pennsylvania 19020

cc: Senator Rick Santorum